2002-03. Production of wheat in Punjab during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 is shown below:

Production of wheat in Punjab

Year	Production (lakh tonnes)
1999-2000	159.10
2000-01	155.51
2001-02 ,	154.99
2002-03	141.75
2003-04	144.89
2004-05	146.98

(b) The per-hectare wheat production (Productivity) is given as under:

Year	Per hectare of wheat (in kg.)
1999-2000	4696
2000-01	4563
2001-02	4532
2002-03	4200
2003-04	4207
2004-05	4221

(c) The main reason for declining production rate is the predominant cultivation of wheat variety PBW 343 for the last ten years. Further higher temperature (Maximum/Minimum) than normal during February/March has also affected the production in last few years. Due to stagnation in productivity and increasing cost of inputs namely machines, human labour, diesel etc. the profit margin of farmers is on the decline.

Prices of pulses

1182. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the abnormal increase in the prices of pulses, particularly at the end of 2005;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in prices as compared to those at the end of previous year;

(c) the reasons for the increase; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure reasonable prices of pulses for the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The monthly Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of Pulses at the end of 2004,2005 and percentage increase are as follows:—

Wholesale Prices Index for Pulses (Base: 1993-94=100)

Months	WP Index	%	
	2004	2005	Change over preceding Year
September	180.6	190.3	5.37
October	179.9	192.7	7.12
November	177.9	201.8	13.43
December	176.5	202.9	14.96

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(c) The major reasons for increase in prices of pulses are lower production during 2004-05 and damage to kharif pulses due to heavy rainfall in Central India in 2005.

(d) Efforts are made to keep the prices of pulses within reasonable level through increase in domestic production and imports. A Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Pulses, Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase productivity and production of pulses. The domestic production is estimated to have increased from 133.8 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 144 lakh tonnes during 2005-06. Since the domestic production of pulses remains inadequate; imports are resorted to ensure price stability and adequate availability of pulses to consumers. During the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto November, 2005) a quantity of 12.96 lakh tonnes and 14.66 lakh tonnes respectively was imported.